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## Resist Newsletter, July-Aug 1981

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# RESIST

July-August 1981 — 38 Union Square, Somerville, Mass. 02143 — Newsletter #141

*a call to resist illegitimate authority*

## WOMEN IN EL SALVADOR

AMANDA CLAIBORNE

*This is the concluding part of an examination of women in El Salvador. The first part was published in Resist newsletter #140.*

### FACTORY WORK

One of the more recent sources of employment for women is the factory. The textile, clothing and electronics industries have all either set up shop or greatly expanded their operations in El Salvador in the last decade, and they traditionally employ mostly women. The largest textile manufacturer, IUSA, is a subsidiary of a Japanese multi-national, and manufactures textiles for export, both within the Central American Common Market and to industrialized countries as well. Conditions in the textile mills are similar to those prevailing in non-union mills in the US, brown lung, hearing impairment, etc., with several important differences: wages are four to five dollars a day, compared to four to five dollars an hour in the US; there are no occupational health and safety regulations; and unionizing is out of the question.

The clothing and electronics industries are primarily export industries and together account for more than a third of El Salvador's total exports of manufactured and industrial goods. The electronics industry, including such familiar names as Texas Instruments and Beckman Instruments, both US multi-nationals, is located in El Salvador's "free trade zone", a device which allows the corporations to pay no taxes providing that they produce only for export (almost exclusively to the US).

Electronics work consists for the most part of assembling integrated circuits. The initial work on these is capital intensive and is completed in the US. The assembly process, which involves soldering tiny wires to the printed circuit, must be carried out by hand using a microscope, and it is this labor-intensive part of the process that has been exported to third-world women in countries such as El Salvador. If you have ever wondered why the price of a calculator is so much less now than it was ten years ago, this is part of the reason. In the clothing industry, at least two American multi-nationals have factories in El Salvador: Manhattan,

## WOMEN, THE COURT, AND THE DRAFT

DOROTHY MARTIN

The June 25th Supreme Court decision upholding the male-only draft managed to completely sidestep the issue of equality for women. By giving Congress the right to decide who must register, the court avoided its obligation to examine the constitutionality of the draft law. Justice Rehnquist, speaking for the 6-3 majority, argued that it is traditional and appropriate for the court to defer to Congress in matters of national defense. And he explained further that "the purpose of registration is to develop a pool of potential combat troops. . . . Women as a group, however, unlike men as a group, are not eligible for combat." Ineligibility comes from the fact that in each of the armed services specific regulations or statutes restrict women from combat. Although combat was not the issue in this court decision, the majority opinion assumed that registering women would lead to their going into combat. These mandates exclude women from equal protection under the Fifth Amendment, and in an indirect way, uphold conservative standards of traditional roles for women.

Dissenting justices questioned the assumption that a draft would be used exclusively to fill combat positions, since even during a mobilization for war there would be a great need for both women and men to fill non-combat jobs. Although the implications of the Supreme Court ruling are more complex than the question of who is qualified for combat, this issue is part of the response heard from women's groups around the country. While the National Organization for Women opposes the draft, it agrees with the dissenting justices that women should have the equal right to defend their country. Protests from NOW include concerns that the decision would make it legal for women in the military to be discriminated against. The combat issue surfaces again, for one of the ways that service women are held to second-class citizenship is that they have no leverage in competing with men for officer status, since the system requires combat badges for promotion. Discrimination against military women is well established. While more recently a large variety of service jobs have been filled

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maker of men's shirts and women's sportswear; and Rapid American's Beau Brummel Division, maker of "Aris Isotoner" leather gloves. (For more on the "global assembly line" see box below.)

The two remaining professions open to women are teaching and nursing. Women make up over 70 percent of the former field, and at one time a woman was head of the independent teachers' union.

## FAMILY LIFE

An interesting aspect of family life in the cities is that a high percentage of all households are woman-centered and do not include a conjugal unit. This type of family made up twenty percent of those surveyed by anthropologist Isabel Nieves. Another ten percent of the sample consisted of extended, or multi-family, households. Nieves postulates that these types of households "free adult women to become economically active and to help support the group, contributing to a degree of economic stability." (Nieves p. 134) Another way of looking at it is that women's work *requires* this type of arrangement. A woman with children who does domestic work, for example, lives in her employer's house and is only allowed two weekends off a month. It is therefore common for such a woman to leave her children with relatives in the country when she goes to the city to find work. Once she has found work and a room in the shantytowns of the *zonas marginales* (so-called because they provide neither sewers nor water, electricity or other city services), she will send for her children and for her mother or sisters, who will then live in the room she has found and care for the children while she is working. It is important to note, in this context, that

while the four to five dollars a day that a domestic worker earns may be sufficient for herself as an individual, in most cases women support a family on this as well.

## Population Control

El Salvador is the most densely populated country in Central America. It is estimated that its current population of 4.5 million will reach 11 million by the year 2000. From another perspective, it has been found that over seventy percent of Salvadoran women wish to determine when and how often they become pregnant. El Salvador does have a program of birth control, which we will examine in more detail below; however, let's first take a look at the role of the US government in the family planning programs in El Salvador.

The US government has been instrumental in the formation and implementation of El Salvador's family planning programs. This assistance has come from the Agency for International Development (AID), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), and the International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF). The latter two, although independent agencies, are closely tied to AID. UNFPA received eighty-five percent of its funding from AID in its first year of operation, and has received thirty-five percent of its annual budget from AID since then. IPPF has received forty percent of its budget from AID since its inception. These three organizations have provided the bulk of foreign financial support to population planning in El Salvador, some \$5.3 million out of a total of \$8.1 million between the years 1966 and 1975. Other organizations which have contributed financial

## A GLOBAL ASSEMBLY LINE

*We need female workers; older than 17, younger than 30; single and without children: minimum education primary school, maximum education one year of preparatory school (high school): available for all shifts.*

— advertisement in Mexican newspaper, quoted by Ehrenreich and Fuentes in "Life on the Global Assembly Line."

Thirty years old is over the hill for workers on the global assembly line. If you work in electronics, your eyesight is probably gone by then anyway. One study in South Korea found that most electronics assembly workers developed severe eye problems after only one year of employment. If you work in textiles or clothing thirty may be over the hill for another reason. A management consultant to US multinationals explained, "as you know, when seniority rises, wages rise." He maintained that it was cheaper to train a fresh supply of teenagers than to pay experienced women higher wages. According to Ehrenreich and Fuentes, "'older' women, aged 23 or 24, are likely to be laid off and not rehired."

The multinationals argue that they provide

good jobs for women, but in reality these jobs pay the minimum wage or slightly more. That is, in Central America, four to five dollars per day. Working conditions are like nineteenth century sweatshops, and breaks are short or nonexistent. In El Salvador, women working at a glove factory struggled unsuccessfully for over two years to get a half-hour lunch break sitting down, instead of fifteen minutes standing up, and ten minutes to go to the toilet instead of five.

Overall 80 to 90 percent of the assembly line jobs exported to the Third World are performed by women who are shamelessly advertised by their governments as dexterous, willing, and docile. Should women workers start losing their "docility" and start demanding fair wages and reasonable working conditions, the local armed forces are always willing to move in to reassert the rights of the multinationals to "free labor". During a 1978 organizing attempt in the Dominican Republic, the government sent in national police in full combat gear and armed with automatic weapons. The American Institute for Free Labor Development, a known C.I.A. collaborator, (see Newsletter # 138) has also been instrumental in setting up cooperative trade unions.



assistance include the Population Council, the Pathfinder Fund, and the Association for Voluntary Sterilization all of which have received significant AID support. Thus, in addition to whatever concern we have as interested observers as to the quality of the family planning programs in El Salvador, we should also be concerned as taxpayers who have paid for much of it.

El Salvador's family planning efforts began in 1963 when the Salvadoran Demographic Association (SDA), now an affiliate of IPPF, was formed. In 1964 the first clinic was opened with the assistance of The Pathfinder Fund. In 1965 the Salvadoran government requested support from AID. In 1966 AID funds made possible the opening of eleven family-planning clinics, in 1967 ten more. As of 1975, there were 150 clinics operated by the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Social Security. SDA operates additional clinics and AID credits these latter with "repopularizing the intrauterine device (IUD)."

As AID has been instrumental in family planning in El Salvador, let's take a look at the AID philosophy. According to their 1975 annual report, "population pressures on limited resources have created numerous social and economic problems." The report then goes on to cite El Salvador's low literacy rate, per capita GNP, high unemployment rate, and "very uneven distribution of income" as examples. Obviously population pressures are not solely responsible for these ills, and this philosophy conveniently overlooks such contributing factors as land distribution and the lack of democracy by attributing all ills simply to population pressures.

Another rationale for AID's population policies was given by Ray T. Ravenholt, from 1966 to 1979 head of AID's Office of Population. He explained that population control was required to maintain "the normal operation of US commercial interests around the world.... Without our trying to help these countries with their economic and social development, the world would rebel against the strong US commercial presence. The self-interest thing is the compelling element."

Given this philosophy it is not surprising that "population control" programs have usually been just what the words would indicate: a program for the control of the population, and have had little to do with the needs and safety of the women involved. For example, the focus of population programs in developing countries has usually been on sterilization, certainly the most reliable method of contraception if

not the safest or most desirable. In El Salvador sterilization is the primary *legal* form of contraception (abortion is more widely used\*).

As for non-permanent forms of birth control, the pill is by far the most used method. The pill also accounts for two-thirds of the total dollar amount spent by AID for contraceptive supplies world-wide for the years 1966-1975. In fact only thirty percent of AID's contraceptive supplies budget was spent on all other, generally safer, forms of contraception; this despite evidence that condoms, for example, have been well accepted in test programs. AID's approach has consistently emphasized those types of birth control that require little or no participation by the woman involved, hence the popularity of sterilization, the pill, and, increasingly, injectable like Depo-Provera and IUDs. Although these forms of contraception may be preferable to women for several reasons (male rejection of women who use detectable contraceptives, and lack of access to clean water which some methods would require) AID's primary goal has been to prevent conception at all costs, even when this has meant sacrificing the safety and informed consent of the woman involved.

### **Sterilization Abuse**

In 1976 hearings before the US Congress on human rights violations in El Salvador, Dr. Fabio Castillo\* testified that he had seen evidence in El Salvador of "compulsory and fraudulent methods of contraception, abortion, and sterilization." Dr. Rene de Leon Schlotter, Secretary General of the Christian Democratic World Union who was also testifying, added that "they are imposing birth control without consent from the people who are involved. This is not family planning. This is a policy of the Government against the population." Although no studies have been done which would either corroborate or disprove these assertions, given the experience of poor and minority women in the US, the widespread and well documented instances of sterilization abuse, it would be remarkable if sterilization abuse was *not* occurring in El Salvador. We should also note that a government that accepts, if not tacitly encourages, the de-wombing of its female citizens by its armed forces, may well have resorted to other less gruesome methods of permanently reducing the size of the poor majority of the population.

### **Contraceptive Dumping**

AID's lack of concern for the health of third world women is dramatically illustrated in their policy of dumping contraceptives on the third world which have been proven unsafe and which are either banned or unpopular in the United States. AID has justified their behavior by claiming a different "benefit/risk ratio" for third world women than for the women of developed countries.

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\*Twenty percent of Salvadoran women surveyed said that they had had an least one abortion (to encourage complete reporting the distinction was not made between induced and naturally occurring abortion) compared to only 14.2 percent who employed all other sorts of birth control combined. As many as ninety percent of women who had had abortions were hospitalized as a result of the abortion and eleven percent of all maternal deaths are attributed to complications of abortion. It is interesting to note that abortion is the most widely used method of contraception despite the fact that it is both illegal and condemned by the Catholic Church to which almost all Salvadorans belong.

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\*Dr. Fabio Castillo, former President of the University of El Salvador, was at the time of the hearings living in exile in Costa Rica. He is now a member of the Political and Diplomatic Commission of the FMLN-FDR.



The pill is the most widely used legal, non-permanent method of contraceptive in use in El Salvador. It has been widely available through family planning clinics. The IUD also is increasingly available. So we must now ask some uncomfortable questions. What percent of birth control pills distributed were of the high estrogen variety that AID began distributing after 1973 when they became cheaper than the low-estrogen variety? (They became cheaper because, on the advice of the Food and Drug Administration, American physicians no longer prescribed them.) What percentage of the IUD's supplied to Salvadoran women through AID and IPPF (whose affiliate SDA had so effectively "repopularized" them) were Dalkon Shields? Do Salvadoran women using the IUD (ten percent of all those using any method of birth control) know that Dalkon Shields were banned in the US in 1975 because they had been proven to cause pelvic inflammatory disease, blood poisoning, spontaneous abortion, ectopic pregnancies, and perforation of the uterus? Do they know that the Shields were supplied to them after AID purchased them from their manufacturer, A. H. Robins at a forty-eight percent discount due to the fact that they were *unsterilized*, add to the fact that they were increasingly unmarketable in the US? Do Salvadoran women know about the hazards of the injectable contraceptive Depo-Provera which has been supplied to them? Do they know that Depo-Provera has been shown to cause malignant breast tumors in beagle dogs; to increase the risk of cervical cancer, to increase the incidence of irregular bleeding disturbances necessitating the administration of estrogen to control the bleeding, to have been associated with a risk of congenital malformations in fetuses exposed to the drug, to have been shown to cause long-term infertility and possible sterility, and to have been shown to appear in large concentrations in breast milk without any evidence of the safety of large doses of hormones on the developing child? Do they know that AID would like to distribute Depo more widely but is restrained by US law from doing so? Finally, do they appreciate AID's double standard for life and death?

The answer to all these questions is probably no. We do not know how many women in El Salvador used and are still using dangerous methods of contraception, but we can assume that they have not been informed of these risks. By 1975 AID had been forced to recall all outstanding supplies of the Dalkon Shield, but they could not hope to recall it from the bodies of women in whom it had been inserted, or from the shelves of remote rural family planning clinics. As for the pill and Depo-Provera, although AID was required to notify foreign governments that the latter was not approved for use in the US, it has not otherwise supplied any information about the health hazards associated with these methods. Nor, as could be expected, have the drug companies, who additionally enjoy none of the truth in labelling constraints in the third world that have been pushed by consumers in this country. In fact the only notification that has been made to third world women and governments has been through an informal network

of feminists concerned with health issues, and through the National Women's Health Network, a national consumer group.

The ominous sounding "population control" has now been replaced with the more acceptable "family" or "population planning," but it is clear that existing family planning programs are not designed to serve the needs of the woman involved, but the needs of her own and the US government, and of American drug companies.

Sterilization is often voluntary. Women should be able to choose the pill or the IUD, as well as to choose whether or not to have an abortion. But every woman in every country has the right to make these choices informed ones, and American women have the responsibility to ensure that they will be able to by insisting that the safety and labelling standards that are applied to domestically available contraceptives be maintained when these contraceptives are supplied to the third world.

### Infant Formula

Thirty thousand infants a day suffer from malnutrition, disease or death which is attributable to infant formula use. James Grant, executive director of UNICEF, estimated that if bottle-feeding were replaced with breast feeding one million infant deaths a year could be prevented. A Brazilian study found that 32 percent of bottle-fed babies suffered from malnutrition, compared to only 9 percent of breast fed babies. Because 70 percent of the brain is formed during the first two years of life, malnutrition at this age often causes irreversible mental retardation.

Why does infant formula cause infant deaths? First, breast-milk is always better for the child. Formula lacks vital antibodies which breast-milk contains and which protect the infant from many diseases. Second, formula requires the ability to follow precise written instructions (unlikely in a country such as El Salvador which has only a fifty percent literacy rate), and clean water and refrigeration both of which are seldom present in developing countries. Third, formula is expensive: in El Salvador a one pound can is equivalent to a day's wages. This results in over dilution of formula and thus malnutrition. In a country like El Salvador where, in one hospital, one quarter of all infants suffered from intrauterine malnutrition, the effects of this later formula-caused malnutrition can be disastrous.

In El Salvador, formula is aggressively marketed on billboards, radio and television. Doctors, although largely aware that breast-feeding is preferable, are subject to intense promotion drives by the milk companies, Nestles in particular. Doctors are given free samples of formula and the annual meeting of the Salvadoran Society of Pediatrics is usually sponsored by a formula company. Other common promotion practices include the direct promotion of formula by nurses in maternity hospitals (a Salvadoran pediatrician strongly suggests that they receive remuneration from the milk companies for their services), and the practice, now declining, of starting infants on formula imme-



diately after birth. "Milk banks" are another ingenious idea. These are unofficial groups that operate within hospitals to promote formula use. In exchange for benefits from the milk companies, they supply formula (Nestles gives the best deal) to new mothers at a discount price. After a few weeks, the discount is stopped and mothers (whose milk has by then dried up) are forced to pay the regular market price.

In El Salvador, formula-related illness is mainly the problem of the "elite" of the lower class and the lower middle class. These are the groups who can afford to buy the milk, but must stretch it, or who can buy enough but have no clean water or refrigeration. The middle and upper classes, if they choose to use formula, can afford to use it properly, and the lowest class cannot afford it.

The Salvadoran pediatrician mentioned above is pessimistic about the likelihood of his own government taking any action against the multinational corporations who manufacture the formula, and so writes that he hopes those in the US can do something about it from their end.

The outlook from this end is a good deal grimmer since Reagan took office. His designee for the post of Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Ernest Lefever, has recently been involved in a campaign to promote Nestles' (the largest manufacturer of formula) right to market their products however they choose, and to attack the American church groups that have been pushing a boycott of Nestles' products. Lefever's Ethics and Public Policy Center recently distributed a *Fortune* article which attacked groups working on the Nestles boycott as "Marxists marching under a banner of Christ." Coincidentally, the Center's largest corporate sponsor is, you guessed it, Nestle which, after the distribution of the above article contributed another \$20,000 to Lefever's group. (We may never know to what degree this connection was responsible for the US's lone "no" vote against the UN's adoption of an infant formula code.)

### WOMAN AS REVOLUTIONARY

According to the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), over forty percent of the members of the Revolutionary Council, the leadership of the political-military organization, are women. The second in command of the FMLN, the military arm of the FDR, the opposition coalition, is a woman, Ana Guadalupe Martinez. Martinez is 28, a former medical student at the University of El Salvador. In 1974 she became active in the revolution. She was imprisoned and tortured and after obtaining her freedom, wrote a book about her experiences: *Clandestine Prisons of El Salvador* which won her the position of finalist in the Casa de las Americas awards in 1979. She is the only female member of the 7-member political and diplomatic commission of the FMLN-FDR, the political leadership of the revolutionary movement in El Salvador. She was recently interviewed by the West German weekly, *Der Spiegel*, and asked if she felt it was odd for a woman to join the guerilla movement. She



answered, "In the particular circumstances in our country it is normal to go to war. Misery, starvation, and unemployment force men and women to find an alternative to the present system." In the interview she emphasized international issues, and did not specifically address the issue of women's oppression in her country. Salvadoran women interviewed in this country stress the commonality of the oppression facing both men and women and tend not to focus on the special oppression of women which they see as less important than the oppression the majority of Salvadorans, male and female, share.

However, some independent reports have indicated that the guerilla movement at even the lowest level is aware of and concerned with the special oppression of women. In a story on life in a guerilla camp in the Chalatenango area, a man identified only as "Fernando" told the American reporter: "There is no machismo here. Women are trained to fight alongside the men. They are both treated equally. Men are taught to help with the cooking, cleaning and washing." "Fernando Numero Tres" added, "We are trying to teach the women that they do not have to accept only the traditional roles for women, that they should try to examine their potentialities. We have some peasant women who join us as cooks. Soon they realize that they have opportunities to do other things. They become combatants, medics or leaders." A Honduran woman who is fighting alongside the Salvadorans agreed, "Women and men are truly equal here." She was taught to be a combat engineer by the guerillas and is in charge of fortifications for ten guerilla camps in Chalatenango.

The attitude towards sex may not be as enlightened. According to Fernando Numero Uno, promiscuity is a punishable offense, and monogamy (and one may assume heterosexuality) considered an enforceable goal. In context, this may well be an advance for women, who had often been abandoned by the father or fathers of their children, and forced to support them alone. Among the guerillas "if a man takes advantage of a woman and gets her pregnant he is punished with hard labor and then he has to help raise the baby."





It is common for married couples to be separated by the demands of the party. Tatu, a 28-year old former medical student in charge of the clinic at Almendritas, hasn't seen his wife and two children for nearly a year. "She's a combatant at a different front. Someone else is taking care of the children. It's a great sacrifice to leave them, not knowing if they're even alive. But we're fighting for the children — for their education and their health and future."

Another way in which the revolutionary forces differ markedly from their counterparts in the official Army and para-military groups is in their attitude towards rape. An American reporter reports that in addition to the five prisoners taken from a village who had been identified by villagers as members of ORDEN, the guerillas also arrested one of their own members for raping a village woman. This is a far cry from the official armed services where rape is not only tolerated, but is encouraged as a means of terrorizing the population.

### Conclusion

Women in El Salvador continue to fight back against their own oppressive government and against the oppression of American imperialism. On March 8, 1980, International Women's Day, the Women's Association of El Salvador (AMES) was formed. AMES is described by the FDR as "another arm of the combat which gives women the opportunity to have their voices heard in making their demands for the right to life; to have the number of children they want; an end to repression; freedom for imprisoned comrades; an end to disappearance; the right to change this state of siege so that a new economic and social order will emerge that will respect women's rights." As feminists we must aid in this struggle by working against all US military and economic aid to the current government of El Salvador. If we do not, sisterhood is meaningless.

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## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

A special issue of *Science For The People* on Science and Militarism. Includes articles on Militarism in Academia, Military Economics, Strategic Policy, Laser Fusion, Biological Weapons, and Space Wars. Single issue price is \$2. Subscriptions are \$10/year. Send checks to Science for the People, 897 Main St., Cambridge, MA 02139.



# WOMEN AND THE DRAFT

by women, their more traditional roles have always been supportive, in nursing or clerical positions.

In Boston a group called Women Opposed to Registration and the Draft has a different approach. While WORD opposes the sexist assumptions which exclude women from registering, it recognizes the draft as a form of forced labor and registration as preparation for war. On the day after the Supreme Court decision WORD held a press conference to protest the ruling, the draft, and military escalation. Statements were made by women representing the Mobilization for Survival, the American Friends Service Committee, Parents Against the Draft, and the Boston Alliance Against Registration and the Draft.

WORD maintains that "regardless of our draft status, women are profoundly affected by military escalation. Civilian casualties in Korea and Vietnam far overshadowed US military deaths, and most civilians are women and children. . . . We know that women can and do fight in wars, if they chose to do so. This is not the issue here. We remain opposed to compelling anyone, female or male, to serve in our military."

registration moves us closer to the institution of a peacetime draft and allows the government to proceed with prosecuting non-registrants. The Selective Service has already sent warning letters to 150 suspected non-registrants. The letters were mailed on June 19th to possible violators whose names had been given to SSS by informers, or who had themselves notified SSS of their refusal to register. The letters stated that all males are required to register if they were born in 1960, 1961, or 1962, or if born in 1963 or a year later, within 30 days of their eighteenth birthday. Anyone who fails to respond to this letter within 15 days is threatened with having his name turned over to the Department of Justice for investigation and possible prosecution. Recipients are reminded that the maximum penalty is five years in prison or a fine of \$10,000 or both. Letters continue to go out to registrants who did not give complete information when they registered. The legality of using social security numbers remains undetermined pending the government's appeal of an earlier court decision.

Although President Reagan has made no official statement on the draft, the Selective Service has prepared a sample mailgram to be sent out as an induction notice. According to the National Lawyers Guild

I'M AGAINST  
DRAFTING WOMEN.



I'M FOR DRAFTING  
OIL COMPANY  
EXECUTIVES.



HOORAY FOR PATRIOTISM!



A still different view is held by Phyllis Schaffly from the Coalition Against Drafting Women. She applauded the ruling for putting the final nail in the coffin of the ERA, and said that, "We are confident that the American men will always stand ready to protect their wives, sweethearts, mothers, and daughters." Schaffly fails to recognize that soldiers routinely claim the right to rape sweethearts and wives as part of their reward for combat duty, and that in wars mothers and daughters are tortured and killed by the men who are serving their country. She also overlooks the fact that even the peacetime military fosters institutional violence against women. While in civilian life millions of women a year are brutalized by men, female enlistees report that sexual harassment is far worse in the service than outside.

On the one hand, the Supreme Court decision has brought us to a turning point, jeopardizing the progress of the ERA and allowing Congress to discriminate against women whenever "national interests" are involved. In addition, the exclusion of women from

the mailgram advises inductees to obtain information on postponements, deferments, and exemptions from local post offices. The form used to request deferments, etc., has also been made available, though the pamphlet used to explain deferments and exemptions is not yet available. It is reportedly finished but SSS appears to be waiting for word from the Reagan administration before releasing it.

While President Reagan announced his continued opposition to a peacetime draft at the West Point graduation over a month ago, Secretary of Defense Weinberger has said that he expects Reagan to support reinstatement of the draft if the military is not able to increase its manpower through recruitment in the coming months. The Defense Department claims that they have met their goals for the last 18 months, and that there are plans to increase military pay and other benefits. However, Reagan's increased military spending will mean an increased need for manpower, which may be more than the recruiters can guarantee.



# GRANTS

**URBAN PLANNING AID** (120 Boylston St.  
Boston, MA)

In 1966 UPA was founded by a group of progressive social scientists who saw the War on Poverty as an opportunity to institute advocacy planning in the Boston area. As a federal demonstration project, UPA became known locally for its work with community groups involved with transportation, labor, occupational health and safety, and housing, and acquired a national reputation largely on the basis of its extensive publications. More recently it has helped set up the Women's Safety Project to address the ongoing survival needs of black women; and the Legal Advocacy project was begun in response to the child custody crisis situations of incarcerated mothers and their children. UPA is probably the most important resource center for activist organizations around Boston. At UPA community groups learn how to produce newspapers, brochures, leaflets, and can get help and tools to do their work. They can also learn how to produce video tapes, slide shows, and radio spots in English and Spanish, and are provided with the necessary equipment. They can get help with planning publicity campaigns and using cable TV. Resist's grant was to help purchase a large indoor/outdoor public address system to be used for demonstrations, educationals, etc. This will save movement groups the \$200-\$300 rental cost of a similar commercial system. Now that UPA can no longer rely on government support, we all need to help keep their alternative resources and vital programs alive. We encourage others to contribute what they can as a way of helping to counter the trend to the right.



**SOUTHERN STUDENT ACTIVISTS NETWORK**  
(P.O. Box 12533, Atlanta, GA 30315)

In a spirit of remembered activism, progressives in the South are organizing an informal coalition called the Southern Students Activists Network. Beginning in May of 1980 the network was composed of ten campus groups, primarily in Georgia and Florida. Since then the organization has become a communication and support hook-up for more than twenty chapters scattered throughout the South. More than 100 other schools are on the SSAN mailing list, and new chapters are forming regularly. In April SSAN held its first convention in Atlanta. Representatives from schools from Miami to West Virginia were there to discuss Reagan's education budget cuts, nuclear weaponry, women's rights, and the rise of racism. Along with helping campus groups to develop their own work locally, SSAN is organizing nationally in participation with CISPES and the Anti-Klan Network. Resist's grant was to support SSAN's growing activities.

**VENICE/SANTA MONICA DRAFT COUNSELING  
AND ANTI-WAR OUTREACH** (235 Hill St., Santa  
Monica, CA)

In March, 1980 the Venice/Santa Monica Draft Task Force was formed to do counseling and education around the political issues of registration and the draft. The group has focused on reaching out to working class, Black and Latino communities — groups that did not have access to counseling during the Vietnam War. Their activities have included conducting several draft counselor training workshops, speaking at local high schools and Santa Monica City College, holding monthly educational forums, and organizing a CISPES chapter on the westside of Los Angeles. They have also participated in the National Anti-Klan Conference, the National CARD convention, the CISPES organizing conference, and the Venice Community Conference Against Racism. One of their most recent forums was a panel of six Vietnam era veterans, who are a racially mixed group of black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and white men. The GI's discussed the poverty draft, their experiences with racism, why wars are fought, and the need to organize against them. The panel has since begun traveling around the region talking to student and community groups. Resist contributed to this useful project.

**WOMEN ORGANIZING FOR OCCUPATIONAL  
SAFETY AND HEALTH** (c/o Everywoman's Center,  
Wilder Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst,  
MA 01003)

WOOSH is a coalition of women's and health groups in Western Massachusetts which has been meeting since December to organize a conference around health and safety for working women. Resist helped support the April, 1981 conference, and we believe that it was a particularly important one. What work has been done in the area of occupational health has tended to focus on the traditional male industrial settings. This conference brought together women active in the reproductive rights and women's health movement with trade union and working women in non-union areas of clerical, agriculture, hospital, and home work. Besides addressing workplace hazards the conference focused on sexual harassment, racism in the workplace, and politics of occupational health and safety. Local conferees were joined by women from Boston, Maine, and Connecticut. The diverse experiences brought to this conference made new and valuable connections among women's issues, and generated the energy to plan for more future meetings.

## THE RESIST PLEDGE SYSTEM

The most important source of our income is monthly pledges. Pledges help us to plan ahead by stabilizing our monthly income. In addition to receiving the newsletter, pledges get a monthly reminder letter, containing some news of recent grants. If you would like to learn more, drop us a note.